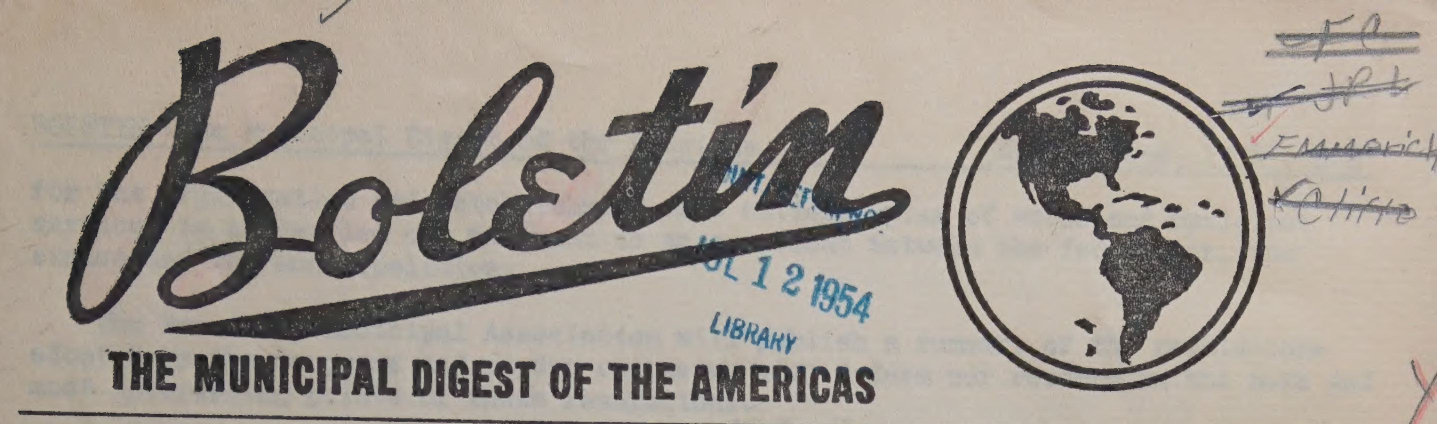


PUBLICACIÓN MENSUAL DE LA COMISIÓN PANAMERICANA DE COOPERACIÓN INTERMUNICIPAL, OBISPO 351, LA HABANA, CUBA. SOLICITADA LA FRANQUICIA POSTAL EN LA ADMÓN. DE CORREOS DE LA HABANA. DIRECTOR: DR. CARLOS M. MORÁN. COMPILADORA Y REDACTORA: BLANCA ROSA SÁNCHEZ. SUSCRIPCIÓN ANUAL: $1.50. SUSCRIPCIÓN COMBINADA CON LA "REVISTA MUNICIPAL INTERAMERICANA": $ 3.50 ANUAL.

Vol. XV January - June, 1954 Nos. 1-6

Brazil

We have had the great satisfaction and pleasure of attending the Third National Congress of Municipalities of Brazil which was held on May 15 to 22 at the beautiful and hospitable city of mineral springs of São Lourenço, in the State of Minas Gerais.

In connection with this third meeting the Brazilian Municipal Association carried on a great preparatory task which resulted in the attendance of representatives from all the regions of Brazil, with more than two thousand delegates from municipalities and with the attendance of the well known Argentinian Professor of Municipal Law, Don Alcides Greca accompanied by his distinguished wife and other outstanding Brazilian personages among which were the Honorable President of the Republic, General Joarez Távora who is considered to be one of the possible candidates to the presidency of the republic, and the Governors of the States of Minas Gerais, Paraná and others; Ministers of the Federal Government and distinguished personalities from Brazilian universities.

The Agenda for this meeting included the following subjects:

1) The meaning of "benefits of a moral order".
2) The creation of municipalities.
3) Municipal planning.
4) Municipalization of services.
5) The San Vicente Charter: a) Reexamination and improvement.
   b) Conversion of its articles into bills, draft, decrees, resolutions and regulations.

In accord with the internal regulations thereof, this Third National Congress of Municipalities had as its purpose the establishment of concrete directives for the discussion and solution of problems of municipal government and administration.

Papers could be presented as added subjects to the Agenda, the same being classified into three groups: 1) Thesis; 2) communications; 3) propositions (suggestions and recommendations).

The work of the Congress was carried on bhrough technical committees of which there were as many as there were subjects in the Agenda, plus a drafting committee, and in plenary sessions wherein the subjects discussed by the technical committees were taken up and wherein at times addresses were heard or lectures by distinguished persons.

More than two hundred papers were introduced among which one that was outstanding and caused a great deal of comment and discussion was that entitled "Operation municipality", this being a draft recommendation providing the preliminary measures

for the organization and establishment of a national plan of works and municipal services to be carried out pursuant to an agreement between the federation, the states and the municipalities.

The Brazilian Municipal Association will publish a summary of the resolutions adopted by the Congress and in due course we will inform our readers on the main and most interesting points of these resolutions.

Prior to holding the Congress a considerable amount of publicity in regard thereto was carried on and many municipalities throughout the nation published very attractive posters advertising the Congress, the words of Antonio Carlos Fernandez being displayed, which say: "Municipalism is not a fight against taxes, it is not a division of communities, it is not regionalism; it is a new era of a world policy in which freedom breaks down frontiers, guarantees prosperity, respects rights, enhances man by adding him to the conquest of peace and social justice", and also containing the municipal decalogue which is as follows:

1) Men, the origin of the human species, should be educated in order that they may understand world problems for the purpose of cooperating wisely and voluntarily in the consolidation of social justice.
2) The municipality is a natural group of society constituted by a meeting of families bound together by neighborly interests and politically organized.
3) The nation is a confederation of municipalities and a federation of States.
4) The municipal institution is the basis of the national organization, constant in its nature, permanent and universal in the political structure of the nation, with specific rights and duties.
5) The State has its specific activities (as the administrative-political-judicial instrument of the nation) and cannot substitute the functions of the municipalities in those things that are incumbent upon them except hardly to regulate intermunicipal relations.
6) The centralization of the public services is a favorable condition for the administrative morality of public men and public customs.
7) The peculiar interest of the municipality is identical in its nature to that of the nation; thus its powers hardly differ in degrees of jurisdiction and geographical location, the municipality being duty bound to participate in services of education, health, traffic, police, agriculture, roads and public works, social welfare and assistance.
8) The Municipality cannot do without its economic resources and the laws should make compulsory the local application of deposits in banks, savings funds, institutions, etc.; the Municipality is the only organ for the collection of taxes, the total thereof being distributed among the Union or Federation, the State and the local public power, in a proportion relative to their obligations.
9) The State should undertake an immediate administrative decentralization of the services under municipal jurisdiction, specially in large communities, the Municipality to receive State financing (regime of transition).
10) The State should be divided into electoral districts, each electing its own representative; suffrage shall be universal under present circumstances and indirect within the State and the Federation.

Likewise, the printed Agenda of the Congress contains words of different Brazilian authors on municipalism, and we are reproducing the following here as being of interest:

"There are no States without municipalities. No living matter can exist without organic life. The existence of a nation cannot be conceived, nor of a constituted people, nor of a State, without municipal life." Rui Barbosa.

"The municipality is a small nation, a small picture of the same, ... in politics, it is the first love of the citizen". João Barbalho.

"History teaches us that countries with municipal freedom are the ones that best resist tyranny. This is a lesson that should be made use of." João Barbalho.

"By itself the central government can hardly grant this or that most ardent petition; and for each one that it grants or evades it sees an increase in the impatient demands of other. Therefore, there is but one solution left to it: to divide its enormous responsibility, seek the aid of the municipality and of the province for the common task of national prosperity: in one word: to decentralize." Tavares Bastos.

The lectures given covered a vast field of interest for the delegates as may be seen below:

"Thesis on the margin of municipalization in Brazil" by General Joarez Távora, Chief of the Superior War College. /

"Municipalization of services of development of agricultural and livestock production" by Deputy Daniel de Carvalho.

"Financial problems of the municipalities" by Mr. Gerson Augusto da Silva, of

"Scientific and didactic autonomy of Municipal Law", by Professor Mr. Alcides Greca, of the Argentine. //

"The municipalities will benefit with 50% of the funds of the Federal Economic Funds", by Mr. F. Solano Carneiro da Cunha, Director of the Superior Council of the Federal Economic Funds.

"Economy as a factor in municipal autonomy", by Mr. Jose Rubião, ex-Director of the Department of Municipalities of São Paulo.

"The administrative reform at Vitoria", by Mr. Armando Rabelo, Mayor of the City of Vitoria.

"The institution of autonomous government in rural communities" by Deputy Mr. Rui Ramos.

"The work of the Public Administration Advisory Committee", by Mr. J. Lyle Cunningham.

"The significance of Paulo Afonso in the development of Northwest Brazil", by Deputy Aluizio Alves.

"Agrarian reform", by Deputy Coutinho Cavalcanti.

/ See Inter-American Municipal Review, Vol. iv, No. 4, April-June, 1954.
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"Rural endemias", by Dr. Mario Pinotti, Director of the National Malaria Service, read by Dr. Carlos Vinhas.

"The new mode of loans to municipalities", by **Mr. Amovar Barroso, President** of the Commercial Association of Campo Belo.

Our Interamerican Municipal Organization received a warm and vibrant homage of sympathy and recognition in the person of Dr. Carlos M. Morán, its Secretary General when at one of the plenary session he was honored by having placed upon his head the famous peasant straw hat which is the symbol of Brazilian municipalism, bearing a legend along the rim which says: "It is aware of its strength" besides being given a golden clasp with the same symbol, at which plenary session everyone sang the municipalist hymn of the Paulista Association of Municipalities which goes as follows:

Here is the straw hat
That is aware of its strength
In a country where one is worth
I also want to be worth.

The high hat is always worn on high
The straw hat is on the ground
And is tired of being humble
And suffer ingratitude.

Whoever forgets the municipality
Forgets his country likewise
But for a better Brazil
The interior wants to be somebody.

The glory of my life
Are the blisters on my hands
The honor of my life
Is to serve my country.

I carry on a good task
I ponder upon creation
And since there is a God who blesses
Every kind deed
I am going to ask this grace of Him
In his own unspeaking power
To place this straw hat
On the head of Brazil.

As is well known, the Brazilian Municipal Association, in Chapter I of its By-laws provides that one of its purposes is to achieve the objectives of cooperation set forth in the By-laws of the Interamerican Municipal Organization and in the ways recommended and ratified by the meetings of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities.

The **Secretary** General of the I.M.O. availed himself of the oppotunity to appreciate the homage that was tributed to him, to extend to all the municipalities of Brazil in behalf of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation and of the Mayoress of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mrs. Felisa Rincón de Gautier, a cordial invitation to attend the V Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities to be held in the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, from December 2 to 7 of this year, it appearing that this invitation was very well received since, after the Congress ended, there was talk of the possibility to charter two airplanes so that the representatives of the several municipalities of the nation might attend this great Inter-

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American event.

Thanks to the courtesy of Radio Phillips do Brazil, the Secretary General Dr. Morán could broadcast same invitation to the rest of the municipalities of the Americas.

All the work of orientation, coordination and operation of the work of the Congress was in charge of a technical committee made up of distinguished personalities under the Chairmanship of Dr. Osorio Nunes, also President of the Deliberative Council of the Brazilian Municipal Association and of the National Organization Committee of this Third Congress.

The technical committee was made up of the following members:

CONSULTANTS: Dr. Araujo Cavalcanti, General Secretary of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (Brazilian Section).

Dr. Afonso Almiro, Director of the Service of Economic and Financial Statistics.

Dr. Gerson Augusto Da Silva, Chief of the Financial Division of the Technical Council of Economy and Finances.

Dr. Francisco Machado Vila, Juridical Consultant of the Department of the Municipalities of Rio Grande do Sul.

Dr. Osmar Cunha, Professor of Currency and Credit of the Faculty of Economic Sciences of Santa Catarina.

Dr. Delorenzo Neto, of the Doctorate of the Faculty of Law of Paris and ex-Prefect of Guarenesia.

Dr. Antonio Pezzolo, Civil Engineer and Councilman.

Dr. Yves de Oliveira, President of the Bahia Association of Municipalities.

Dr. Olavo Batista Filho, Regional Inspector of Statistics of São Paulo.

Dr. Hildebrando Martins, Regional Inspector of Statistics of Minas Gerais.

Dr. Arthur Ferreira, Regional Inspector of Statistics of Bahia.

Dr. Durval Vieira Calazans, Coordinator of the Technical Inspectors of National Statistical Council.

Dr. Afranio Melo, Adviser to the General Secretary of the National Statistical Council.

Dr. Valdemar Cavalcanti, Chief of the Service of Divulgation of the National Statistical Council.

COORDINATOR: Dr. Luciano Mesquita, Technical Adviser of the Finance Committee of the Senate and Technician of the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

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ADVISERS: Dr. Tupy Correa Porto, Engineer and Assistant Technician of the National Council on Transportation.

Dr. Marcilo Mota, Engineer of the National Direction of Regional Statistics.

Dr. Vicente Ferrer Correia Lima, Adviser of the Budget Division of the DASP.

Dr. Diego Lordelo de Melo, Technician of the Department of Municipalities of Parana.

Dr. Sandoval Godinho, Secretary of the Municipal Association of Parana.

Augusto Mario Vieira, Newspaperman, Delegate of the Municipality of Cuiaba

Dr. Fernando Bessa, Director of the Budget Division of the Ministry of Justice.

Dr. Itamar de Oliveira, Relator of the Ministry of Justice in the Budget Division of DASP.

Dr. Emanuel da Mota Alburquerque, Relator of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Budget Division of DASP.

Dr. Deirel Reinaldo Silva, Chief of the Public Revenue Division in the Budget Division of DASP.

Dr. Pedro Ferreira Magalhaes, Relator of the Department of Roads and Public Works in the Budget Division of DASP.

Dr. Fernando Pires de Alburquerque, Relator of the Ministry of Education of DASP.

Dr. Pacifico do Espirito Santo Mesquita, Director of the Documentary Service of DASP.

Dr. Desire Guarany Silva, Fiscal Inspector of Consumption in Amazonas.

Dr. Francelino de Araujo Gomes, Professor of the Politechnical School.

Dr. Jôao R. de Matos, Technical Adviser of the Finance Committee of the Senate.

D..Celia Neves, Economist and Ex-Director of the Budget Bureau of UNESCO.

Dr. Francisco Burkinski, Official of the COFAF.

Due to the great number of attendants from all parts of Brazil, to the interest shown by them in the matters that were discussed, to the vibrant expression of democratic and municipalist faith noted in all the debates and to the repeated evidences of sympathy and adhesion to our movement, we can assure with great satisfaction that the seed that we planted several years ago has borne magnificent fruit and that Brazil will carry very far and on high the banner and principles of intermunicipality which Ruy de Lugo Viña had dreamt of.

The sources of information of our publications can be consulted in the specialized Library of the C.P.C.I. where it is sent by several organizations and private individuals.